

EUROPEAN HEART JOURNAL. Volume 1, No. 1. (£23.00 yearly U.K.) London: Academic Press, 1980.

THE initial response to the launching of the European Heart Journal is to question the need for yet another cardiological journal. This English language journal is designed to represent the European Society of Cardiology and its birth owes much to the success of this society. Whether the new journal will attract a steady flow of high quality papers from the various member countries remains to be seen and the problems which plagued the European Journal of Cardiology could easily recur. However, the choice of Professor Desmond Julian as Editor will go far to ensure the new journal's success. With his determination and tact he should be able to overcome the inevitable teething troubles.

The format of the journal is neat and the paper and illustrations are of high quality. The references do not intrude on the text. The quality of the papers published in the first issue is generally high. They are drawn from many different European countries. They deal with some of the main branches of clinical cardiology, electrophysiology, electrocardiography, drug therapy, surgery, non-invasive diagnostic techniques and, significantly, include a major paper on the prevention of coronary heart disease by the WHO European Collaborative Group. The provision of a forum for such collaborative studies will almost certainly act as a stimulus for more to be carried out. This must be welcomed. Though the Editor admits that the first issue does not include the full range of articles, editorials, reviews, notes and correspondence, it does strike a pleasing balance. Especially welcome are the invited editorial comments which follow several of the major papers. These are cogent and succinct.

This journal will enable cardiologists from the smaller European countries to bring their work before a wider audience than would have been reached by their national cardiological journals. At the same time it will be a useful way of notifying cardiologists of meetings of the various working groups of the European Society of Cardiology. Therefore, as one who in 1978 voted against the creation of a European Heart Journal, I now congratulate those who have brought out this promising first issue. If subsequent issues continue and extend the high standards of the first, the European Heart Journal will rapidly become one of the important cardiological journals.

M.E.S.

A PATIENT'S GUIDE TO DIALYSIS AND TRANSPLANTATION. By Roger Gabriel. (Pp 124. £4.95). Lancaster: MTP Press, 1980.

THIS 124 page book contains information of value to the patient whose kidney function is declining and who will soon need regular dialysis treatment. There is a useful glossary of terms used in dialysis treatment, but the term "hypo" surely cannot be in general use to describe a hypotensive episode during dialysis. "Hypo" has another slang meaning and seems a particularly unfortunate choice of abbreviation. The chapter on social service support is valuable.

The descriptions of the various methods of treatment are clear, but the omission of any mention of single needle dialysis is surprising in 1980. Most patients would regard this as a major improvement in treatment—in the Belfast Renal Unit two needle dialysis was phased out in 1978 in favour of the single needle method. The principle of continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis is incorrectly stated although the detailed description which follows is correct.

The weakest part of the book is the part dealing with renal transplantation. This chapter would make very alarming reading for a patient awaiting a transplant. It gives a very gloomy view of results of transplantation, showing a graph of information (undated) "obtained from many transplant units in Europe" with no mention of the fact that the results of many United Kingdom units are very much better than those shown. It is pointless to draw attention to the fact "a transplanted kidney does not work forever" since this applies to the natural kidney, and a statement like this is psychologically undesirable. Kidney transplantation began to emerge from the experimental stage only about 1965, but there are already significant numbers of perfectly fit patients whose renal transplants continue to function after more than 10 years.

I would hesitate to recommend this book to many of my patients because of the attitude shown to renal transplantation, despite its usefulness on other aspects of their treatment.

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